

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during the in-person interview on May 10, 2011, the substance of which is substantially reflected in the following remarks.

By this response, no claims are amended, canceled or added. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 15-18 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 11, 15-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr et al. (U.S. Patent 6,391,378) in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,001,203) and further Enchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,455,099) in view of Levey et al. (U.S. patent 5,409,545) and further Kitahara et al. (U.S. Patent 6,595,819). Further, claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr et al. (U.S. Patent 6,391,378) in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,001,203) and further Enchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,455,099) in view of Levey et al. (U.S. patent 5,409,545) and further Kitahara et al. (U.S. Patent 6,595,819) and further Vinouze et al. (U.S. Patent 5,431,771). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 11 and 18 each recite a combination of features including, for example, “lowering a body supporting a syringe having a nozzle at one end towards the substrate...; stopping the lowering when the nozzle contacts the substrate, wherein a contact type switch detects the nozzle contacting the substrate; lifting up the body, wherein the contact type switch detects the nozzle being isolated from the substrate...; detecting an initial value between the nozzle and the substrate when a state of the contact switch is switched...” None of the cited reference, alone or in combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

Carr discloses, in the related art section, “The touch probe 20 includes a lower housing 22, a pneumatic actuator 24, and a cylinder 26 that extends from the pneumatic actuator to the lower housing.” See col. 2, lines 6-8. Carr further discloses that “When the controller stops the movement of the pump and dispenser assembly, the lower housing 22 is at a distance d2 from the circuit board. The position of the touch probe on the pump and dispenser assembly is precalibrated such that when the lower housing is at the distance d2 from the circuit board, the

nozzle of the pump and dispenser assembly is at the desired dispensing distance above the circuit board.”

Carr also discloses, in the detailed description section, “Similar to the touch probe device of the prior art described above, the measuring probe 120... is designed to mount to a pump and dispenser assembly of a dispensing system.”

However, Carr fails to disclose at least “stopping the lowering when the nozzle contacts the substrate, wherein a contact type switch detects the nozzle contacting the substrate” of claims 11 and 18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of independent claims 11 and 18, as amended, be withdrawn. Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of dependent claims 15 to 17 be withdrawn at least because of their dependence on independent claim 11, and for additional features that they recite.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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